

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03980 301254Z

51

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 ARA-16 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-04 ACDA-19 CEQ-02 SCI-06 COA-02 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00

DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 RSR-01

(ADP) W

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R 300730Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 824

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS GENEVA 3980

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJECT: LOS: SEABED COMMITTEE MEETING, SUBCOMMITTEE II  
WORKING GROUP, JULY 27

1. SUMMARY. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, WORKING GROUP (WG) WAS UNABLE REACH CONSENSUS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMAL WG ON FISHERIES. US INTERVENED TWICE IN SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTING SUCH A GROUP.

2. CHAIRMAN KEDADI (TUNISIA) BEGAN MEETING BY SUGGESTING THAT INFORMAL WG BE CONSTITUTED TO CONSIDER SUBJECT OF FISHERIES. HE NOTED SEVERAL SPEAKERS HAD STATED SIX-POWER WG ON FISHERIES (A/AC 138/SC.II/L.38) MIGHT BE BASIS FOR COMPROMISE. CHAIRMAN LISTED THIRTEEN STATES WHICH  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03980 301254Z

HAD INDICATED PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY THAT THEY

WERE WILLING TO SERVE ON SUCH WG. PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUP WOULD BE TO DRAW UP GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE PROGRESS ON FISHERIES IN WG. CHAIRMAN RECALLED POLISH REP HAD SUGGESTED CHAIRMAN OF WG PRESIDE OVER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND CHAIRMAN INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DO THIS.

3. SOVS SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE BUT SUGGESTED HE CHAIR GROUP AS REP OF TUNISIA AND NOT AS CHAIRMAN OF WG. THEY STRESSED NEED FOR ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE RESULT OF TEXTS REFLECTING DIFFERENT VIEWS.

4. EGYPTIAN REP AGREED ON NEED TO CREATE INFORMAL GROUP BUT NOT ON POINT FORMAL DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN BY WG IN THIS REGARD. HE DID NOT BELIEVE CHAIRMAN OF WG SHOULD CHAIR ANY INFORMAL CONSULTATION AMONG DELS AND SUGGESTED THAT MORE TIME SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REFLECT ON MATTER. CHAIRMAN TOOK NOTE OF BOTH SOV AND EGYPTIAN SUGGESTIONS AND STATED TUNISIA WOULD PREFER NOT PARTICIPATE IN INFORMAL WG.

5. JAPANESE REP SUGGESTED WG MEMBERSHIP BE OPEN-ENDED. POLISH REP REITERATED SUPPORT FOR KEDADI AS CHAIRMAN.

6. U.S. (JOHN R. STEVENSON) SUPPORTED FORMATION OF SUCH GROUP AND SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF SIMILAR GROUP BEING FORMED FOR CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE POINTED OUT MAIN FUNCTION WOULD BE TO REDUCE ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE AND TO PRESENT FAITHFULLY VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW. MAIN EFFORT SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP USABLE TEXTS. U.S. WAS WILLING TO START WITH TEXTS COMMANDING GREATEST SUPPORT AND TO WORK FOR ALTERNATIVE TEXTS REFLECTING VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW.

7. LONG PROCEDURAL DEBATE ENSUED AFTER PERU DIRECTLY OBJECTED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMAL WG ON FISHERIES. PERU ARGUED SUGGESTION WAS PREMATURE IN THAT MORE PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED ON FISHERIES AND THAT DEBATE ON SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED IN WG. REP NOTED UNITY AND LINKAGE BETWEEN VARIOUS TOPICS. REP SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF TOPICS IN ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEARED IN COMPARATIVE TABLE (TERRI-  
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03980 301254Z

TORIAL SEA IS FIRST ITEM). DURING DEBATE IT EMERGED THAT MOST WESTERN EUROPEANS, EASTERN EUROPEANS, AND AFRICANS WERE WILLING TO ESTABLISH GROUP BUT THAT LATIN AMERICANS (INCLUDING CO-SPONSORS OF SANTO DOMINGO ARTICLES) AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS EGYPT, GREECE, TURKEY, AND INDONESIA WERE AGAINST ITS FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT.

8. US REP INTERVENED TO EXPRESS REGRET OVER TIME WASTED

ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND FACT THAT ALL DELEGATES WERE NOT TALKING ABOUT SAME PROPOSAL. HE STATED INFORMAL GROUP WAS MERELY PRELIMINARY STEP TO ASSIST CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING CONSOLIDATED TEXTS NECESSARY FOR DRAFTING ARTICLES. FUNCTION OF GROUP WAS TO REDUCE ALTERNATIVES AND NOT TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE. HE SUGGESTED GROUP MIGHT BE COMPOSED OF CO-SPONSORS OF PROPOSALS WHO HOPEFULLY MIGHT AGREE ON ONE SPOKESMAN WHERE THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE CO-SPONSOR. SINCE TASK WAS TO REDUCE ALTERNATIVES, OTHER MEMBERS MIGHT ATTEND MEETINGS BUT SHOULD LISTEN. IF ADDITIONAL TEXTS WERE SUBMITTED, APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS COULD BE MADE IN TEXT TO REFLECT ANY ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES. DEBATE WOULD CONTINUE ON FISHERIES IN WG AND IN SC II. SCOPE OF PARTICIPATION COULD BE SOMETHING AKIN TO REGIONAL GROUP MTGS.

9. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED MEETING BY NOTING THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON CREATING INFORMAL WG ON FISHERIES, HE MADE PRESSING APPEAL FOR ALL THOSE WITH DRAFTING PROPOSALS ON FISHERIES TO MEET IN ORDER TO WORK TOWARD A CONSOLIDATED TEXT. HE INDICATED THAT CONSOLIDATED TEXT ON TERRITORIAL SEA (INCLUDING STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOES) WOULD BE AVAILABLE SOON IN ALL LANGUAGES. BASSIN

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